

2024 CALL FOR ENTRIES GUIDE

About the Awards

The IALD International Lighting Design Awards, the longest-running international lighting design awards program, is the highest honor in the profession recognizing work that reaches new heights and represents excellence in aesthetic and technical achievement.

Since its establishment in 1983, the awards program has supported the mission and vision of the IALD: raising the profile of the lighting design profession and demonstrating the visible success of that community.



An Overview

Design firms submit entries for projects that meet certain eligibility requirements through the IALD website. A panel of volunteer judges overseen by an Awards Chairperson meets on a series of videoconference calls to review all accepted entries through two rounds of blind judging (no knowledge of the submitting firm or individual designers on the project).

Advancement from the first to the second round is based on the evaluation of the entry's submitted short brief of under 100 words and a single-page poster of chosen project images. During the second round, those advancing projects are scored by each judge based on a set of ten key criteria. Total averaged scores from the second round (which will range from 0 to 105 points) determine the winners for the year.

There is no minimum or maximum number of awards granted. **IALD Awards of Excellence** (scoring above 88) and **IALD Awards of Merit** (scoring between 80 and 87.999) are based on points earned for both technical and aesthetic design achievement. Recognition in the form of an **IALD Special Citation** may be given for a particularly innovative aspect of a project's lighting design.

The **IALD Radiance Award for Excellence in Lighting Design**, the top honor of the IALD International Lighting Design Awards, is presented to the project that is judged among all submissions to be the year's finest example of lighting design excellence (based on the highest point score).

Submissions + Call for Entries

How to Submit a Project

- Navigate to the Awards program section of the IALD digital platform at iald.org/awards.
- There one can access the entry portal, official Awards guides, submission forms, and other related documentation.

Submission Dates

- Call for Entries Opens: Thursday, 21 December 2023
- Early Bird Deadline: Monday, 22 January 2024
- Regular Submission Deadline: Monday, 26 February 2024
- Late Submission Deadline: Sunday, 17 March 2024

All deadlines are at 11:59 PM (US Central) on the listed date.

Entry Fees

	Early Bird Fee	Regular Fee	Late Fee
IALD Members	\$140 USD	\$190 USD	\$240 USD
Non-IALD Members	\$240 USD	\$290 USD	\$340 USD

Entry fees are paid per submitted project in US Dollars and accepted only by credit card.

At least one person on the project's design team must be an active IALD member to qualify for the "IALD Members" rate. (Affiliate membership qualifies for this rate.)

Eligibility

Entrants: Who Can Enter?

This is an awards program for architectural lighting design. Entrants must be lighting designers, and awards will be granted only to the team or teams that explicitly performed the design of the architectural lighting for the project that was submitted.

Members of the awards judging panel, as well as the firms, organizations, agencies, or employers (including other divisions) they represent, are not eligible to enter the professional awards program for that year. Any questions or concerns should be directed to awards@iald.org.

Projects: What Can Be Entered?

The project must be a permanent architectural lighting design solution for which construction was **completed on or after 1 January of the previous year** (e.g. the 2024 Awards will accept projects completed on or after 1 January 2022).

To be considered 'permanent', a project must be intended to be in place for at least two years when it is submitted. The IALD encourages the submission of lighting design projects of all sizes.

A project that has been submitted for a previous award cycle may be resubmitted if:

- The project did not previously win an award; and
- The project's completion date adheres to this award cycle's requirements.

Entry Requirements

Project Media + Materials

Project Posters

Project posters will be shared with the judging panel to provide an overall impression of the work during the first round. Based on the review and discussion of the project poster, judges will determine if the project is evaluated further in the second round.

All project posters must adhere to these criteria:

- Posters must be in A3 format (297 x 420 mm). Landscape orientation is recommended.
- All images embedded in the poster must have a resolution of 72 DPI or higher.
- All images included in the poster must also be uploaded separately at full resolution (300 DPI or higher) per the "Digital Image Guidelines" section below, as part of the media materials for your submission.
- Posters must contain a minimum of three (3) images, and a maximum of ten (10) images. See the "Images" section below for acceptable image criteria.
- The only text that *may* appear on the poster will be:
 - The project title.
 - The Short Brief (maximum 100 words; see the [Written Briefs](#) section below for details).
 - Short captions (maximum 140 characters each) for images included in the poster. If you include captions for images on the poster, you

are expected to enter those captions again in the entry form along with each high-resolution image.

- Client logomarks as they appear in or on the project itself.
- The poster *must not* include:
 - Names of any kind other than the project title. No design firm, designer, collaborator, manufacturer, or product name should be used.
 - Decorative effects, graphic elements, or digital modifications.

While the poster must adhere to the above limitations and should be artfully designed, it should also give a full impression of the project's scope and most important features. If you think any element of your lighting scheme is essential to understanding your design solution, be sure to include it.

Images

An "image" is defined as any of the below:

- Photographs of the project site after construction is completed. This is the *most important* of all acceptable image types, and at least six (6) are required (see below).
- A diagram or inset of an installation.
- A concept drawing or rendering (these must be clearly labeled as such to distinguish from photography).
- A floor plan, detail, section, or elevation drawing, if applicable.
- Circuiting documents.
- Cutsheet of an important component (manufacturer details must be removed).
- A short video clip of a dynamic or kinetic lighting installation (see the [Discretionary Video](#) section below for more information).

IMPORTANT: *At least six (6) of your images must be actual project photographs.* This ensures that if the project wins, it can be sufficiently presented in Awards publications, presentations, and press releases.

Image/Video Descriptions

Each image or video uploaded for judging must include a short description of what is in the image or video. Descriptions are limited to 280 characters and must not include names of any firms, designers, collaborators, manufacturers, or products. (Note: These can be the same text as the captions optionally used in the project poster.)

Digital Image Requirements

Entries must adhere to the following requirements for all images they submit. Just as with the poster guidelines above, this includes all images featured on the poster.

1. Project images must meet these basic specifications:
 - a. FILE FORMAT: JPG files only (no PNG, TIF, HEIC, etc.).
 - b. IMAGE RESOLUTION: 300-600 dpi.
 - c. DIMENSIONS: 1200 pixels minimum on the shortest side.
 - d. ORIENTATION: Portrait or landscape.
2. A **minimum of six (6) photographs** is required, and a **maximum of fifteen (15) images** total may be uploaded with a single project.
3. All images should be named to align with the project title, numbered sequentially, and separated by an underscore.

FORMAT: ProjectTitle_##.jpg

EXAMPLES: GothamTower_01.jpg, GothamTower_02.jpg
 DesertVilla_01.jpg, DesertVilla_02.jpg

4. Photographs **may not be digitally altered** for sharpness, exposure, color, etc. They must be a clear, valid representation of the actual project. Any photograph that shows evidence of modification, renderings being submitted as photographs, or manipulation through AI will be removed from the entry and may lead to the disqualification of the entry completely.
5. Images must not include any text, icons, pointers, or other graphical overlays added in post-production.
6. Any image containing multiple photographs, drawings, or renderings combined into one digital file will not be accepted and will be removed from the entry.
7. Images should contain no names of any kind. No references to the firm, client, or designer should appear in your images. (Exceptions may occur where the client's brand or logomark is on signage that is part of the lighting design.)
8. All images used in the project poster **must** be uploaded as individual files and will count toward your maximum of fifteen images per entry.

File Format

The IALD Awards program only accepts JPG/JPEG file formats for image uploads and only PDF files for the posters. The flattening that often occurs in TIF files and the compression in scaled PNG files do not accurately represent the work – and these projects deserve to shine! Please direct any questions about file formats to awards@iald.org.

Discretionary Video

Projects containing lighting that is kinetic, time-limited, or dynamic may submit up to sixty (60) seconds of video to help judges understand those lighting elements that a still image cannot convey. The judging panel reserves the right to disqualify a video if it is not deemed to be a dynamic installation (meaning, video cannot be used simply to maneuver around an otherwise static installation).

A Video of Length:	Can Replace # of Entry Images:
1-15 seconds	1
16-30 seconds	2
31-45 seconds	3
46-60 seconds	4

Video files must also adhere to the following guidelines:

- May not take the place of the minimum six required photographs.
- Video must be in *.mov or *.mp4 format.
- Video cannot exceed 250 MB file size.
- The video must be no longer than 60 seconds in length.
- Video cannot have an audio track (no music or voiceover is permitted).
- Video cannot include text, subtitles, or other overlays.
- Video cannot use post-production editing techniques (digital manipulation, crossfades, transitions, etc.).
- Video drone flythroughs or walkthroughs of non-dynamic lighting projects will be rejected and not reviewed by the judges. The rest of your submission may be reviewed if it adheres to all other guidelines.

Important Media Recommendations

- The quality of images and video clips is important in the judging process. Although the images do not need to be professionally photographed, they should be of the highest quality to illustrate the designer's work. **Color photography is required.**
- Avoid the use of fill light when photographing the sites. **If you must use fill light, please clearly identify which images include fill light.** Undisclosed fill light or digital alternations/manipulations may be grounds for

disqualification as they may alter the judge's perception.

- Identify any areas in the images that were not the work of the submitting designer.
- Entrants are encouraged to include images that show the project in use, in context with its surroundings, and from a human vantage point.
- Smaller-scale projects should show more detail rather than reducing the number of images.
- If the project includes exterior lighting, at least one daytime photograph is recommended.
- If plans or drawings are required to describe the lighting solution, include images of the essential information.
- Daylit images make judging the success of electric lighting nearly impossible. **If a submission includes more than one or two images that include daylight, the description fields for those images should explain why this is being done** (for example: cases of daylight being a focus of design technique, or when the main use of the environment is during daylight hours, etc.).

Direct any questions regarding image submission to awards@iald.org.

Materials Release Form

Every piece of media submitted with a project entry must be accounted for on a Materials Release Form (see the last page of this document; additional copies [available here on the IALD digital platform](#)). The Materials Release Form must be signed by the person who owns the rights to the media, dated, and uploaded with your project submission. **If you are submitting media from multiple rights holders, a separate form should be submitted for each copyright owner with the corresponding media files indicated on each respective form.**

Minor amendments to the materials release form may be made to allow for use promoting the winning project and limiting usage by the IALD after (for instances where the rights owner will permit use of the media for the Awards program itself, but not for future digital or print use).

Written Briefs

Two briefs are required for each project submission: a Short Brief; and a Detailed Brief. These briefs are read during judging and may be used in promotional materials if the project is selected for an award.

The Short Brief

The Short Brief is a required portion of the submission and, along with the poster, is the first thing the judges see regarding your project.

Limited to 100 words, this brief should give a broad overview of the highlights of your project:

- The project's concept.
- The most important technical aspects of the project.
- Particularly interesting or noteworthy highlights.

The Short Brief must not contain the names of any design firm, designer, collaborator, manufacturer, or product.

As mentioned earlier, the Short Brief is the only text that may appear on the poster in addition to the optional photo captions.

The judges use the Short Brief and the poster to determine if they wish to advance your project to the second round, so be compelling!

The Detailed Brief

The Detailed Brief is a required portion of the submission and is read during the second round of judging. Limited to 450 words, this brief should discuss the lighting design in detail.

What should be included? Use the following criteria as guidelines in discussing the quality and success of your lighting design project:

- **Concept:** How well does the outcome of the project support the stated design concept(s)?
- **Composition:** How well does the design achieve harmonious composition within its context?
- **Science:** How well does the lighting design express the characteristics of light (intensity, shadow, contrast, distribution, color, quality, etc.)?
- **Synthesis:** How well does the lighting design (integration, detailing, luminaires, controls, etc.) enhance the built environment?
- **Challenges:** How well does the lighting design demonstrate skillful mastery over the challenges (aesthetic, technical, financial, environmental, etc.)?

- **Stewardship:** How well does the design incorporate sustainable solutions or show regard for the environmental impact of the project?
- **Innovation:** How well does the lighting design demonstrate innovative (creative, original, imaginative, etc.) thinking and/or challenge industry norms?
- **Artistry:** How well does the lighting design demonstrate artistic expression?
- **Experience:** How well does the lighting solution affect people and/or create an experience?
- **Excellence:** How does the lighting design demonstrate excellence and raise the standard of the profession?

You do not need to list each of these criteria in the Detailed Brief, nor do you need to describe your included media, as each uploaded image/video has its description field for that purpose.

Additional Information

In addition to the media and written briefs, the online submission tool includes a list of fields you must complete:

- Entrant's name (the individual submitting the project and primary contact, does not have to be part of the credited design team or firm)
- Entrant contact information
- Project name
- Project location
- Date of project completion
- All lighting designers on the project (including those no longer employed by the submitting firm; these can be notated as "Formerly of ___")
- Architect and other design credits, including photography/videography credits (other non-design credits including client, construction, engineering, etc. are not required)
- Size of project, in square feet or meters
- Installation cost (if available)
- Watts per square foot or meter (if available)
- Energy codes or standards relevant to the project (if applicable)

Important Guidelines for Project Credits

Design firms who submit a project must comply with the following IALD project credit guidelines for awards entries when compiling their award submission credits. These guidelines are defined by the IALD Ethics Committee as drawn from the IALD Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Please send questions to the committee at ethics@iald.org.

These guidelines intend to make clear all corporate and individual communications related to credit for project work. In no case shall an individual communicate misleading information regarding project credit.

Corporate Credit

While a design firm is in operation as a company, the firm will have the right to list all projects for which the firm has been involved. Should that firm cease to do business, that overall list will also cease to exist. Projects completed by individuals within the firm may be claimed as individual credits, provided there is clear identification that the work was done while a member of the prior firm and that they follow the guidelines for individual credit as follows.

Individual Credit

Individuals may take credit for individual projects for which they were a Senior Designer with significant involvement in the project or a design Principal or Principal in Charge or primary client contact. In all cases, if any portion of the individual project was done while a member of another firm, that firm shall be identified and credited clearly. In no case may an individual take credit for individual projects for which they had no direct involvement, regardless of their involvement in a specific company.

Awards Credits

The Awards Committee also reinforces the credit guidelines for awards submissions set by the Ethics Committee which requires those submitting projects for awards to recognize all design professionals who worked on a project in the credits for the project, even if those designers are deceased, no longer in the employ of the firm submitting the project, or no longer practicing. However, if the submitting firm has its own formal, internal guidelines, the submitting firm's guidelines may supersede IALD project credit guidelines.

The IALD Ethics Committee urges all applicants to review the credits in their submitted materials to bring them in compliance with these guidelines.

Accuracy and Responsibility of Credits

The IALD credits winning projects based on the information submitted by the project entrant. The IALD neither modifies nor omits the names of individuals or firms as provided by the submitting entity. Credits may therefore not be inclusive of all participants on the project, and IALD takes no responsibility for omissions or errors in crediting. **It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the credits provided to IALD. Any damages or conflicts resulting from factual inaccuracies or omissions in the credits are entirely the responsibility of the entrant.**

The Judging Process

The judging for the IALD International Lighting Design Awards is both blind and rigorous. Judges do not know the identities of the entrants, and no firms with submitted projects are allowed to contribute judges for the year. Judging is conducted through a series of videoconferences and individual review periods.

If any judge is intimately familiar with the project (i.e., they have consulted, bid for the project, etc.), they can and should recuse themselves. If they have seen it in person, judges should only discuss and judge what they see in the submission.

Round One

In this round, the judges review project posters and Short Briefs for all completed projects. Each judge is asked if the project warrants further consideration, and digitally records their vote. A supermajority of votes (5 out of 7 judges) is required to advance any project to the next round.

Round Two

In this round, projects are reviewed in more depth. All project media, media descriptions, and the Detailed Brief are now visible to judges, as well as the original project poster and Short Brief from the previous round.

Judges individually score these projects on those ten criteria as seen in [the Detailed Brief section](#) of this document. Each of the criteria is scored up to ten points, with an additional option to award up to five discretionary points. Scores are submitted digitally, anonymously, and in isolation from other judges.

The highest and lowest judge scores are dropped, and the remaining scores are averaged together. Projects averaging between 80.0 and 87.999 are awarded an IALD Award of Merit. Projects scoring 88 or above receive an IALD Award of Excellence. The highest scoring point project is awarded the IALD Radiance Award in addition to their Award of Excellence.

Round Three: Special Citations

A final meeting is held to reveal the winners to the judges and provide an opportunity to award “Special Citations” designed to acknowledge projects that have specific elements the judges particularly liked, but whose scores ranged between 70 and 79.9.

Projects that were flagged during Round Two as being citation-worthy are discussed over what element or feature of the project stood out. After discussion,

judges agree on what aspect of the project is being considered and vote 'yes' or 'no' on the earning of a citation. A supermajority is required to be awarded.

Submission Materials Checklist

Eligible entries must include the following:

- Completed Online Entry Form:** All information on the submission portal form is required. Fill it out accurately — entrants are responsible for all errors and omissions in the form. Submissions must be completed in English.
- Project Poster:** This A3-size poster file will be uploaded via the IALD Awards submission portal and used to introduce the project to the judges. See the [Project Posters](#) section of this document for detailed guidelines.
- Project Images:** A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 images per project are permitted. Images must be uploaded via the IALD Awards submission portal, and each must include a short description. All images used in the project poster must be uploaded individually and will count towards the entry's image total. See the [Images](#) section of this document for detailed guidelines.
- Short Brief:** A 100-word limit. May not contain any reference to the names of any individual, group, or product involved in the project. Read by the judges during the first round, it introduces the judges to the project and encourages them to learn more.
- Detailed Brief:** A 450-word limit. May not contain any reference to the names of any individual, group, or product involved in the project. Read by the judges during the second round, it discusses the project in detail as it relates to the criteria described in [The Detailed Brief](#) section of this document.
- Entry Material Release Form:** (available on the last page of this document) Submit this form with the rest of your submission, completed in full and signed by the copyright owner(s) of your project media. If your media set has more than one copyright owner, multiple forms are required.
- Entry Fee:** Payment is made in US Dollars only by credit card via our online submission portal.

The IALD will not accept submissions or payment by any means other than the online submission portal.

Completed submissions are due by 26 February 2024. All materials must be uploaded in full, and the submission finalized by 11:59 P.M. (US Central Standard Time) on 17 March 2024 – the fullest extent of the “late” submission period – or the entry will be disqualified.

The IALD reserves the right to disqualify any project submission that does not abide by these rules of entry. Submission fees are nonrefundable.

Sample Judging Form: Round Two

Concept: How well does the outcome of the project support the stated design concept(s)?	0-10 pts
Composition: How well does the design achieve harmonious composition within its context?	0-10 pts
Science: How well does the lighting design express the characteristics of light (intensity, shadow, contrast, distribution, color, quality, etc.)?	0-10 pts
Synthesis: How well does the lighting design (integration, detailing, luminaires, controls, etc.) enhance the built environment?	0-10 pts
Challenges: How well does the lighting design demonstrate skillful mastery over the challenges (aesthetic, technical, financial, environmental, etc.)?	0-10 pts
Stewardship: How well does the design incorporate sustainable solutions or show regard for the environmental impact of the project?	0-10 pts
Innovation: How well does the lighting design demonstrate innovative (creative, original, imaginative, etc.) thinking and/or challenge industry norms?	0-10 pts
Artistry: How well does the lighting design demonstrate artistic expression?	0-10 pts
Experience: How well does the lighting solution affect people and/or create an experience?	0-10 pts
Excellence: How well does the lighting design demonstrate excellence and raise the standard of the profession?	0-10 pts
Sub-Total	0-100 pts
Discretionary Points – “Touch of Genius”: Are there any tangible or intangible qualities of the project that deserve further merit/points?	0-5 pts
Total	0-105 pts

Special Citation Consideration:

Regardless of how you scored this project, are there any elements of this project you would consider for a special citation?

- Yes No

IALD INTERNATIONAL LIGHTING DESIGN AWARDS 2024 ENTRY MATERIALS RELEASE FORM

Project Name: _____

Project Location: _____

Project Contact: _____

List of media filenames held by this Copyright Owner: _____

First Publication Year of the Copyrighted Work: _____

In connection with the submission of the above project entry for the 2024 IALD International Lighting Design Awards, _____ (the individual copyright owner or authorized representative for business-owned copyright) hereby grants to the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), Ltd., and the IALD Education Trust Fund, Inc., nonexclusive right to the use of these submitted materials for editorial, educational, and public relations uses throughout the world as directly related to the IALD International Lighting Design Awards.

This includes any and all promotional and publicity usage as directly related to the Awards program including website content, live and broadcast award presentations, press releases, digital publications, and other internally related materials. Strictly no advertising and no Third-Party usage of the copyrighted materials will be permitted.

Owner retains all rights to use these images for self-promotion and retains all copyright. RIGHTS GRANTED TO USE FOR IALD AWARDS and any award submission.

The Copyright Owner warrants and represents that they possess all rights to the materials submitted, and hereby indemnifies and holds the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), Ltd., and the IALD Education Trust Fund, Inc., and their licensees and assigns, harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses arising out of the use of the aforementioned materials.

(Copyright Owner's Signature)

(Copyright Owner's Printed Name)

Occupational Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Contact: _____

Date: _____